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### AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

~~—PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION AND USE OF NANO- AND MICRO-PARTICLES OF GROUP II AND TRANSITION METALS OXIDES AND HYDROXIDES, THE NANO- AND MICRO-PARTICLES THUS OBTAINED AND THEIR USE IN THE CERAMIC, TEXTILE AND PAPER INDUSTRIES--~~

Please replace the Abstract with the following Abstract:

—A process for the preparation of particles of group II and transition metals oxides and hydroxides is described, which provides a homogeneous phase synthesis step by a double exchange reaction and, in the case of oxides, the subsequent calcination of the corresponding hydroxides; the particles thus obtained and their use for surface coatings of ceramic, textile and paper materials are also described.—